



24th February 2023

E-safety Newsletter Spring term 2023: Information re concerns about the popular influencer Andrew Tate

Dear Parents and Carers,

You might have heard of social media influencer Andrew Tate, who's recently been in the news. We know that he is extremely popular amongst Secondary age children who are reading his messages and posts about violence towards women; these views can be dangerous for both boys and girls. Children often don't realise that they are being influenced, and may even oppose his views, however, we know that repeated exposure, through seeing such posts first-hand or through sharing information amongst peers, can lead to normalising extreme viewpoints until they're no longer shocking or seen as antisocial opinions.

We urge you to please read this factsheet so you're prepared and able to talk to your child about Andrew Tate and his opinions.

If you or your child have concerns that you would like to receive advice for, please do not hesitate to get in touch; we will be more than happy to support and advise you or signpost you to further advisory services.

Yours sincerely

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Andrew Tate

You may have seen this name pop up in the news, or you may have heard about him from your children. Find out who he is, why he's in the news, the risks he poses and how to talk about him at home.

Who is Andrew Tate?

- Social media influencer with over 5 million followers on Twitter
 - Former professional kickboxer
 - Previous *Big Brother* contestant
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Why is he in the news?

In 2022, Andrew Tate was banned from YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok due to his controversial and misogynistic (hatred and discrimination against women) posts.

In December 2022, he was arrested in Romania along with his brother on suspicion of human trafficking, organised crime and rape.

How does this affect our children?

Andrew Tate, sometimes referred to as the 'king of misogyny', is a famous and influential figure on social media, even after being banned. He draws a lot of attention to his extreme wealth, luxury lifestyle and possessions, such as his expensive cars.

Children may still see his content (as other people can still share his posts) and may believe that acting and thinking like he does will lead to fame, fortune and success.

He promotes ideas such as:

- Men are more important and more powerful than women
- Violence against woman is okay
- Men shouldn't show emotion

He has said things like:

- "I think the women belong to the man"
- "[Women are] intrinsically lazy"
- "[There is] no such thing as an independent female"
- "Depression isn't real"
- "The hallmark of a real man is controlling himself, controlling his emotions, and acting appropriately regardless of how he feels"

We know children are talking about Andrew Tate, and boys in particular are being influenced and 'groomed' by his views, with concerns that his power and influence could lead to radicalisation and violence against women. Girls are also in danger of accepting that what he says about women is true (i.e. that they're worth less than men).

What can we do as parents?

We are talking about topics raised by Andrew Tate in school, for example:

- Through the PSHE & RSE curriculum, and specifically through the 'Relationships' units for each year group, we proactively teach pupils about respecting others, recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationships, the importance of understanding consent, and respecting the opinions of others but also recognizing when someone is trying to influence your viewpoints in an unhealthy way.
- Where pupils have raised the topic of Andrew Tate and the misogyny/toxic masculinity views he promotes, we facilitate open discussion to explore and critically evaluate these ideas and the impact they could potentially have on others and on our relationships.
- If pupils share inappropriate jokes/'banter'/comments, these are always challenged, explored and reflected on, in a therapeutic manner, to ensure that pupils understand the meaning and potential impact this could have on others.
- Our behaviour policy has very clear procedures for managing antisocial behaviour, this includes acts of misogyny/toxic masculinity. Whilst we respond to all behaviour using therapeutic behaviour management procedures, we have a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment and sexual violence of any sort (including the discussion of such behaviour). All incidences of such antisocial behaviour will be addressed and reported on the pupil's behaviour record, and parents will be informed. The school will always ensure that there are teaching opportunities following such incidents. If the behaviour continues to be repeated, parents will be invited in to school to attend a meeting to discuss further support opportunities.
- Our Safeguarding policy also has very clear procedures for responding to pupils who display such concerning behaviour or expressions of extremist viewpoints such as Andrew Tate's misogyny/toxic masculinity and the "INCEL" culture which he promotes. The reason for this is that we would need to consider that the pupil may be at risk of being groomed by extremists (online or in person); they could also be at risk of grooming others if they share such views or information with other children. These incidences would be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the school safeguarding procedures would be followed as per the Safeguarding policy.

However, children are less likely to listen to influencers such as Andrew Tate if they are having similar conversations reinforced at home.

We recommend you:

1. **Read recent news articles** about Andrew Tate, if you're not already familiar with him (you can find some in the 'Sources' box below).
2. **Ask your child what they're getting up to online** – show genuine interest, don't judge them or tell them what they should and shouldn't be doing. Children are more likely to share if they feel you're interested, rather than trying to check up on them.
3. **Have open discussions about Andrew Tate** – don't tell your child how to think, but question their thinking and understanding. Ask if they believe what Andrew Tate says, for example his comments that women "belong" to men, and how that might make the women in their lives feel, or they themselves feel. The charity Bold Voices have a great toolkit to help with this, which you can find in the 'Sources' box below.
4. **Be role models** – encourage your child to be open with their emotions. Teach them that it's okay to cry if you're sad. Show respect for women and girls, and encourage your child to model this behaviour.

Sources

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding

- [Andrew Tate's appeal to Birmingham schoolboys 'looking for direction'](#), BBC News
- [Andrew Tate toolkit](#), Bold Voices
- [How to talk to your children about Andrew Tate and online misogyny](#), Evening Standard
- [How to talk to children about Andrew Tate and other toxic views online](#), The British Psychological Society
- ['We see misogyny every day': how Andrew Tate's twisted ideology infiltrated British schools](#), The Guardian